

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A rackable gate for a fence on terrain having a
5 non-level contour, comprising:

a gate panel with spaced-apart rails connected to a plurality of spaced-apart first pickets;

a second picket fastened to the respective rails on a side opposing the fastening of the first pickets to the
10 respective rail;

a pair of opposing gate posts, each defining openings in a side wall, the openings spaced-apart to conform to the spacing of the rails, the openings receiving distal opposing distal ends of the rails
15 pivotally secured thereat,

whereby during racking of the gate panel to orient the rails at an oblique angle relative to the pickets to track the contour of the terrain, the rails are restricted from pivoting from the pickets by the opposing
20 fastening on the second picket and the opposing distal end of the rail received in the gate post.

2. The rackable gate as recited in claim 1, wherein the fastening comprise flexible mild steel welds.

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3. The rackable gate as recited in claim 1, wherein the gate panel is selectively racked during installation between about 0 and 20 degrees relative to the angle at which the rails are disposed when the rails and pickets
30 are initially attached together.

4. The rackable gate as recited in claim 1, wherein the angle at which the rails are disposed is between about 0 degrees and 60 degrees.

5 5. The rackable gate as recited in claim 4 , wherein the gate panel is selectively racked during installation between about 0 and 20 degrees relative to the angle at which the rails are disposed when the rails and pickets are initially attached together.

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6. The rackable gate as recited in claim 1, wherein the angle at which the rails are disposed is selected from the group comprising the angles of 0 degrees, 20 degree, 40 degree, and 60 degrees.

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7. The rackable gate as recited in claim 6 , wherein the gate panel is selectively racked during installation between about 0 and 20 degrees relative to the angle at which the rails are disposed when the rails and pickets are initially attached together.

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8. The rackable gate as recited in claim 1, wherein the rails are four-wall tubular members.

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9. A rackable gate readily adjustable to track substantially a slope of a terrain during installation thereof in a fence, comprising:

5 a pair of elongate rails disposed in parallel spaced-apart relation and at an angle relative to horizontal to define a longitudinal length of a gate panel, the rails each defining opposing first and second side edges;

10 a plurality of first pickets attached to the first and the second rails by fasteners between the respective first picket and the first side edge of the rails;

a second picket attached to the first and the second rails by fasteners between the second picket and the second side edge of the rails; and

15 opposing gate posts defining openings in which respective distal ends of the rails are pivotally secured,

whereby the rackable gate during installation in a fence over a terrain is adjustable to the slope of a portion of the terrain by moving opposing ends of the gate panel in opposing directions transverse to the longitudinal axis of the rails while the pickets remain substantially perpendicular to horizontal and the rails are restricted from pivoting away from the rails.

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10. The rackable gate as recited in claim 9, wherein the fasteners comprise flexible mild steel welds.

11. The rackable gate as recited in claim 10, wherein the angle at which the rails are disposed is between about 0 degrees and 60 degrees.

12. The rackable gate as recited in claim 11,
wherein the gate panel is selectively racked during
installation between about 0 and 20 degrees relative to
the angle at which the rails are disposed when the rails
5 and pickets are initially attached together.

13. The fence panel as recited in claim 10, wherein
the rails are four-wall tubular members.

10 14. A method of making a gate for tracking a sloped
grade during installation of a fence over a terrain,
comprising the steps of:

(a) disposing a first rail parallel and spaced-apart
from a second rail at an angle to a horizontal plane to
15 define a longitudinal length of a fence panel, the rails
defining opposing first and second side edges;

(b) attaching a plurality of first pickets to the
rails substantially perpendicular to the horizontal plane
with fasteners between the pickets and the first side
20 edge of the rails;

(c) attaching a second picket at end portions of the
rails substantially perpendicular to the horizontal plane
by fasteners between the second picket and the second
side edge of the rails; and

25 (d) pivotally securing distal ends of the rails in
openings defined in opposing posts,

whereby the gate, being racked by moving the
opposing posts in opposing directions transverse to the
longitudinal axis of the rails, conforms the slope of the
30 rails substantially to the slope of the portion of the
terrain by changing the angle between the pickets and the
rails while the pickets remain substantially
perpendicular to horizontal.